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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

TERMS OF REFERENCE ANNOUNCED IN FRANK PAUL INQUIRY

VICTORIA – Terms of reference for a public inquiry into the 1998 death of Frank Joseph Paul were released today by Attorney General Wally Oppal.

Paul, a New Brunswick Mi'Kmaq, was found dead in a Vancouver Downtown Eastside alley Dec. 6, 1998, after being released from police custody.

The hearing and study commission, headed by William H. Davies, QC, is being established to provide Paul's family and the public with a record of the circumstances of his death. Davies, the sole member, may recommend changes, as necessary to the relevant rules, policies and procedures of the BC Ambulance Service, the Vancouver police board and police department, the Police Complaints Commissioner, the BC Coroners Service and the Ministry of Attorney General criminal justice branch.

A commission of inquiry was announced earlier by Solicitor General John Les and is established under the new Public Inquiry Act. It is expected to begin work soon with public hearings in Vancouver this fall. The final report is to be submitted by next May 31.

The Attorney General is responsible for the Public Inquiry Act and receiving Davies' report. Public inquiry reports will be tabled before the Legislative Assembly following a review related to the applicable sections of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Oral hearings are open to the public unless the inquiry commissioner determines that protection of a personal or public interest requires otherwise.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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